PRESS RELEASE

The first Stradivarius International Violin Competition is in its final day. Tonight, the competition reveals its Main Category winners and honors the Youth Category winners at the awards ceremony and the final Prizewinner's Concert.

Salt Lake City, Utah, June 14, 2007—The Stradivarius International Violin Competition ranks the top five competitors of the Main Category and announces the winners of the Youth Category. The competition will announce the winners of the Main Category this evening at an awards ceremony and a concert provided by the winners.

The Stradivarius International Violin Competition begins its final day on June 14, 2007, at Libby Gardner Hall at the University of Utah.

The Competition is delighted to announce its winners for the Youth Category. They are as follows:

The Grand Prize winner is 11 year old (Lower Division competitor) Mindy Chen from California. The 2nd Prize winner is Jennifer Liu (Upper Division competitor) from California, and Ashley Thakur (Middle Division competitor) from New York.

The Grand Prize consists of $1,500 (one thousand and five hundred dollars), and an an Invitation from the Gina Bachauer International Piano Foundation to play a solo appearance at their upcoming piano festival. The Youth Grand Prize winner will also be allowed to use a rare Stradivarius violin that the Prizewinner's Concert if they choose to do so.

The second Prize Winner will receive $1250 (one thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars), and the third prize winner will receive $1,000 (one thousand dollars).

Last night, the competition officials determined the Finalists in the Main Category. These are the top five that will be ranked in the Final Round today.

The five finalists are (in alphabetical order) as follows:

Susan Jang from the USA
SoJin Kim from Korea
Sharon Park from the USA
Andrej Power from Sweden
Yoonshin Song from Korea

The Final Concert and Awards ceremony is dedicated to Melba Lindsay Burton (1899-1991). She was a well known Utah violin teacher who taught many of the violinists who eventually became musicians for the Utah Symphony. Many artists in the Utah symphony hold to the idea that she was, in large part, personally responsible

for much of the orchestra's artistic quality, and that she had made a significant contribution to art and culture in Utah.

The Final Concert and Awards Ceremony is scheduled to begin at 6:30 pm tonight (Thursday, June 14, 2007). Libby Gardner hall is hosting this event as they have virtually all events associated with the competition since it began on Monday.

The Competition has scheduled a private (invitation only) exhibition of rare Italian violins from 12:00 pm. To 4:00 pm.. The collection includes the Stradivarius and the Guarneri "Del Gesu" violins featured in last night's remarkable *Stradivari and Guarneri* presentation.

The concert and lecture provided last night proved to be an event of remarkable satisfaction. Andres Cardenes performed on a Stradivarius Violin, and Viktor Danchenko performed on a Guarneri "Del Gesu". Florian Leonhard of London, an international violin expert and dealer, delivered lectures on the history and culture surrounding these violins. As a violin maker, Florian was able to communicate complicated acoustic concepts in such a way that the audience was able to comprehend ideas normally considered too esoteric for the layman. His passion for the subject, and extensive knowledge of violins, was clear in his presentation.

After enlightening commentary concerning the violins by Cardenes and Danchenko, the event concluded with a stunning performance of the Bach Double Violin Concerto on the two fine Italian instruments. These two performers demonstrated superb artistry after only (approximately) one and one half hours to practice on the instruments. Andres Cardenes accurately commented that his relationship with the violin was something like a forced marriage with only two hours notice. Be that as it may, it was clearly a strong and successful marriage from the viewpoint of an audience of classical music lovers.